United Nations A/54/443

General Assembly

Distr.: General
6 October 1999

Original: English

Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 12
Report of the Economic and Social Council

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001

Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1999

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The present report is submitted to inform the General Assembly of the requirements resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1999.

2. The Council adopted a number of resolutions and decisions in which it authorized relevant functional commissions, standing committees or expert bodies to undertake additional activities, including meetings, in excess of those initially programmed in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 (A/54/6/Rev.1 (vols. I-III)). In accordance with rule 31 of its rules of procedure, the Council was provided, where appropriate, with a statement of programme budget implications prior to the adoption of these resolutions and decisions.

3. As reflected in the report of the Commission on Human Rights (E/1999/23 (Part II, annex IV)) and of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/1999/30, annex II), the Council was informed, *inter alia*, that the additional requirements relating to the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-fifth session and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its eighth session would be met from within the provisions made respectively under sections 22. Human rights, and 14. Crime prevention and criminal justice, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001.

4. With regard to additional conference-servicing requirements, the Council was informed in each relevant case that provisions had been made in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001, not only for meetings already programmed at the time of budget preparation but also for meetings or extensions of meetings that might be authorized subsequently, provided that the number and distribution of meetings were consistent with the pattern of meetings of past years. On that basis, it is estimated that no additional resources would be required under section 2. General Assembly affairs and conference services, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 as a result of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council.

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I. Additional requirements entailed by resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council

Resolution 1999/61
Science and technology for development

5. In paragraphs 11 and 21 of its resolution 1999/61 of 30 July 1999, the Council requested the secretariat of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development:

(a) To assist in identifying and disseminating balanced information on biotechnology, intellectual property rights and biosafety;

(b) To examine case studies of approaches to address issues related to technology, intellectual property rights and biosafety issues in a practical, understandable and concrete way;

(c) To prepare a succinct analytical report on relevant activities within the United Nations system, including the outcome of the World Science Conference, for consideration under the item entitled "Functioning of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, including its role in coordinating science and technology for development".

6. The decisions of the Council contained in resolution 1999/61 relate to section 11A. Trade and development, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001. The programme budget implications of these decisions were submitted to the Council in document E/1999/L.49 and the additional requirements were estimated at $86,900, as follows:

(a) $55,300 under general temporary assistance, representing seven work-months at the P-4 level, to carry out the activities described under subparagraphs 5 (a) and (b) above;

(b) $31,600 also under general temporary assistance, representing four work-months at the P-4 level to carry out the activities described in subparagraph 5 (c) above.

Decision 1999/287
Additional extraordinary sessions of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

7. By its decision 1999/287 of 30 July 1999, the Council, concerned that existing meeting arrangements for the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights no longer permitted the Committee to fully discharge its responsibilities under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and Council resolution 1985/17 of 28 May 1985 in an efficient and timely manner, approved the holding of two additional three-week extraordinary sessions of the Committee, as well as respective pre-sessional working groups of one week's duration during 2000 and 2001, provided additional funding was made available; requested that those sessions be entirely used for the consideration of reports of the States parties in order to reduce the backlog of reports; and requested the Committee to consider ways and means to improve the efficiency of its working methods and to report to the Council in 2001 on the actions taken in this regard.

8. Council decision 1999/287 relates to sections 2. General Assembly affairs and conference services and 22. Human rights, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001. The programme budget implications of this decision were submitted to the Council in document E/1999/L.55. The additional requirements were set forth as follows:

(a) The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights normally holds two three-week sessions per year, in April/May and November/December, respectively. A pre-sessional working group meets for one week immediately after the conclusion of each session. Travel allowance and daily subsistence allowance (DSA) are paid to the 18 members of the Committee attending the annual sessions, and DSA is paid to an average of only 5 members participating in the pre-sessional working group meetings;

(b) Provisions have been included under sections 22. Human rights, and 2. General Assembly affairs and conference services, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 for two annual sessions of the Committee and two annual pre-sessional working group meetings. No provisions have been included under these sections for the two additional sessions of the Committee and the two pre-sessional working groups;

(c) It is estimated that an additional provision of $353,400 under section 22. Human rights, would be required during the biennium 2000-2001 as follows:

(i) $334,000 for the travel allowance and DSA of the 18 members of the Committee attending the additional sessions in 2000 and 2001;

(ii) $19,400 for the DSA of 5 members of the Committee participating in the additional pre-sessional working group meetings in 2000 and 2001.

II. Conclusions

9. In summary, the requests contained in Council resolution 1999/61 and Council decision 1999/287 give rise to requirements for the biennium 2000-2001 under sections 11A. Trade and development, and 22. Human rights, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001. No provisions have been made under these sections of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 to cover the additional requirements.

10. It will be recalled that, under the procedures established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and 42/211 of 21 December 1987, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the programme budget. Under this procedure, if additional expenditures are proposed that exceed the resources available from the contingency fund, the activities concerned can be implemented only through redeployment of resources from low-priority areas or modifications of existing activities. Otherwise, such additional activities will have to be deferred to a later biennium.

11. It is not possible, at this stage, to identify activities within sections 11A. Trade and development, and 22. Human rights, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001, that could be terminated, deferred, curtailed or modified during that biennium to finance the costs of the additional activities recommended by the Council in resolution 1999/61 and decision 1999/287.

12. Consequently, an additional provision of $440,300 would be required over and above the resources proposed under sections 11A. Trade and development, and 22. Human rights, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001. This provision would represent a charge against the contingency fund and, as such, would require related additional appropriations of $86,900 under section 11A and $353,400 under section 22.